

COMMENTS AND RESPONSE

In view of the comments below, Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the present application including rejected claims, as amended, and withdraw the claim rejections.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 101

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1 of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,590,545.

By this response, Applicant has cancelled claim 1, thus rendering this ground of rejection moot. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as double patenting.

Allowed Claim

The Examiner has indicated that claim 28 is allowable. Applicant respectfully acknowledges the allowability of this claim.

New Claims

By this response Applicants have added new claims 29-39. Each of these new claims depends ultimately from allowed claim 28, and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 28.

Support for these new claims can be found in claims 2-14 from the parent application, as well as related portions of the specification. No new matter is being added by these claims.

Appl. No. 10/601,308
Amendment dated December 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2004

Conclusion

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, clearly and patentably distinguish over the cited references of record and as such are deemed allowable. Such allowance is hereby earnestly and respectfully solicited at an early date. If the Examiner has any suggestions, comments, or questions, calls are welcome at the telephone number below.

Although it is not anticipated that any additional fees are due or payable, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian C. Altmiller", is written over a horizontal line.

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